

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended, and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 1-3, 10-12, 20-30 are amended to further clarify the features contained therein. No new matter is introduced.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1-3, 7-12, 14-15, 18-19, and 20 were provisionally rejected under non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting in view of Claims 1-3, 6-11, 14-20 of copending Application No. 10/816,843; Claims 1-3 and 15-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meenan (U.S. Patent No. 7,313,348, hereafter “Meenan”) in view of Kathail (U.S. Patent No. 6,704,752, hereafter “Kathail”); Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meenan in view of Kathail and Kameda (U.S. Patent No. 5,940,722); and Claims 23-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meenan in view of Hansen (U.S. Patent No. 7,103,018, hereafter “Hansen”) in view of Kathail.

Initially, it is submitted that amendments to the claims contained herein render the rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, moot.

Further, the provisional non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is acknowledged. However, as this rejection is provisional, no response is required or given at this time.

In reply to the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 15-22 as being unpatentable over Meenan in view of Kathail, Claim 1 is amended to recite, *inter alia*, an information communications system that includes:

¹ Non-limiting support for the amended claims may be found at least at pages 54-56 of the specification.

a first information communication apparatus of the at least two information communication apparatuses storing predetermined communication information for communication through said network, the first information communication apparatus including an input device configured to receive *a first external mechanical input*;

a second information communication apparatus of the at least two information communication apparatuses connected to the first communication apparatus by a wire circuit, the second information communication apparatus including an input device configured to receive *a second external mechanical input...*

...the first and second external mechanical inputs being received independently of said network and said wire circuit. (Emphasis added.)

The primary reference, Meenan, describes a method of configuring a home-networking system using a host system to store the configuration and information.² Meenan describes that the home-networking system (100) includes multiple home-network devices (112) interconnected via a home-networking gateway (15), as well as a host system (120) connected to the home-networking gateway (15) via a communication device (119) and a communication link (130).³ When a home-networking gateway (115) is added to the home network, the host system (120) provides the configuration information (124) to the home-networking gateway (115), avoiding cumbersome manual configuration.⁴ However, as acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action, Meenan does not disclose that the host system (120) provides the configuration information (124) to the home-networking gateway (115) in response to external mechanical inputs received at both the host system (120) and the home-networking gateway (115).⁵ To remedy this deficiency in Meenan, the outstanding Office Action combines Meenan with Kathail.

² Meenan at column 2, lines 33-48.

³ Meenan at column 2, lines 49-55; see also Figure 1.

⁴ Meenan at column 6, line 65-column 7, line 2; column 8, lines 8-16.

⁵ See the outstanding Office Action at pages 6-7.

Kathail describes a system for configuring a router using a centralized database provided in an internet operating system.⁶ Kathail also describes that the centralized database (sysDB) tracks and maintains configuration transaction so that the router may be reverted to a previous configuration upon a user request.⁷

However, Kathail does not describe that the router includes an input device to receive external mechanical inputs. Instead, Kathail describes that the router is manually configured through *software configuration commands* provided via a computer or other data processing device operatively coupled to the router and using a software program, such as telnet.⁸ No where, however, does Kathail describe that the router receives an external mechanical input, much less that configuration of the router is triggered by the external mechanical input. Conversely, amended Claim 1 recites that the first and second communication apparatuses include input devices configured to received a first and second external mechanical inputs respectively, and also recites that the first information communication apparatus communicates the predetermined communication information to the second information communication apparatus *when the input device of the first information communication apparatus receives the first external mechanical input*. Therefore, Kathail fails to describe the claimed input device, and does not cure the above-noted deficiency in Meenan. Accordingly, no combination of Meenan and Kathail describe every feature recited in amended Claim 1, and amended Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, together with any claims depending therefrom.

Moreover, amended Claims 2-3, 10-12 and 21-22 recite features substantially similar to those recited in amended Claim 1, and are believed to be in condition for allowance, together with any claim depending therefrom, for substantially similar reasons. Accordingly,

⁶ Kathail at column 5, lines 7-12.

⁷ Kathail at column 5, lines 5-15.

⁸ Kathail at column 4, lines 53-63.

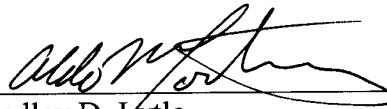
it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1-13 and 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

As all other rejections of record rely upon Kathail for describing the above-distinguished feature, and Kathail does not disclose or suggest the above-distinguished features alone, or in combination with any other art of record, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 14 and 23-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

For the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-30 is earnestly solicited.

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